

SCHAUMBURG, IL — Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-8), who has focused heavily during her first year in office on improving transportation infrastructure in the Northwest Suburbs, joined Metra Chairman Jeffrey Ladd as well as Wheeling and Cook county officials today in dedicating the North Central Line's second track. The recent construction brings the number of trains on the line, which extends over 53 miles from Chicago's Union Station to Antioch, to twenty, an increase of over ten trains.

Bean noted that the North Central Service Line has been sorely needed in the northwest suburbs and desperately sought after for decades, and that with the additional track, Antioch, Grayslake, Wheeling, and other communities can go even farther in decreasing traffic, and reclaiming time that would have otherwise been lost in a car, struggling through congested roads.

While helped secure millions of dollars in funding for the North Central Line, she renewed her commitment to bringing home even more federal funding to make sure that the North Central Line is fast and efficient, and that traffic congestion if further alleviated.

Bean worked with the Illinois Congressional delegation to successfully obtain funding for improvements and construction on the North Central Service through the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. The legislation also includes an additional \$24 million in funding that Bean secured for traffic improvements in the 8th District, as well as funds that she and others in the Illinois delegation requested to help enhance Metra's suburban passenger service. These projects include initial development of the STAR line, which would link a number of northwest suburban communities.

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